



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts

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Justice Timmer to Lead Task Force on Delivery of Legal Services

PHOENIX – Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Scott Bales announces the formation of the Task Force on Delivery of Legal Services, to be chaired by Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer.

“Promoting Access to Justice” is Goal 1 of the Judiciary’s Strategic Agenda, *Advancing Justice Together, Court & Communities*. Much has been accomplished through the work of the Arizona Commission on Access to Justice to promote this goal for those with limited financial means to obtain legal services, and those efforts will continue.

The Task Force will review how rules and codes governing the practice of law in Arizona can be revised to improve the delivery of legal services to consumers by lawyers and others. The Task Force’s charge includes examining if non-lawyers with specific qualifications should be allowed to provide limited legal services. Associate Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer stated, “Everyone deserves meaningful access to our courts without regard for financial wherewithal. This task force will bring us steps closer to providing that access, and I’m honored to lead that effort.”

An Administrative Order issued on November 21 outlines the initial priorities for the Task Force:

- a. Restyle, update, and reorganize Rule 31(d) of the Arizona Rules of Supreme Court to simplify and clarify its provisions.
- b. Review the Legal Document Preparers program and related Arizona Code of Judicial Administration requirements and, if warranted, recommend revisions to the existing rules and code sections that would improve access to and quality of legal services and information provided by legal document preparers.

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- c. Examine and recommend whether other non-lawyers, with specified qualifications, should be allowed to provide limited legal services, including representing individuals in civil proceedings in limited jurisdiction courts, administrative hearings not otherwise allowed by Rule 31(d), and family court matters.
- d. Review Supreme Court Rule 42, ER 1.2 related to scope of representation and determine if changes to this and other rules would encourage broader use of limited scope representation by individuals needing legal services.
- e. Recommend whether Supreme Court rules should be modified to allow for co-ownership by lawyers and non-lawyers in entities providing legal services; and,
- f. In the Chair's discretion, consider and recommend other rule or code changes or pilot projects on the foregoing topics concerning the delivery of legal services.

The Task Force will present its preliminary recommendations to the Commission on Access to Justice and to the Attorney Regulation Advisory Committee for their respective input and, by October 1, 2019, submit a report and recommendations to the Arizona Judicial Council.